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LETTERS

Spies for Israel

Joseph C. Harsch must have written his Dec. 3, "Spying for Israel" column without reference to fine news analyses by other writers in the same issue. His usually accurate comments on history are flawed with canards that have for years obstructed peace in the Middle East.

By saying that "most Arab countries are technically at war with Israel," Harsch ignores the bilateral 1949 armistice agreements negotiated for the United Nations by Ralph Bunche on Rhodes.

Israel signed these with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria but then broke all of them and still occupies territory conceded to those states in the armistices.

As for Saudi Arabia and Yemen, Israel's negotiators volunteered to exclude them, since neither had participated in the 1948-49 fighting. Iraq's ratification of Jordan's agreement was acceptable to Israel. As for the Arab states that later gained independence, it is wrong to infer that they are technically at war; Israel's raid on Tunis proves just the opposite.

Britain and France violated formal alliances with America in 1956 when intelligence liaison agreements were breached to protect secret collaboration with Israel to start the Suez war.

It is impossible to associate Mr. Pollard's sale of US Sixth Fleet communications codes to Israel with Harsch's rationalization that all the Israelis bought was information about Soviet equipment and United States arms supplies to Arab states.

Wilbur Crane Eveland III

Marion, Mass.